[Translation]

Use of Hindi at International Functions

3596. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have made any arrangement regarding preparation of speeches in Hindi for the international conferences and delivery thereof in Hindi by the representatives of the country and Heads of the State; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b) Some orders have been issued in regard to accord due importance to Official Language Hindi in International Conferences. However, the matter is being reconsidered.

Killing of Wild Animals

3597. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether an inter-State gang involved in the illegal killing of lions, spotted deer and other wild animals and black-marketing of their skins and body parts has been arrested in the forests of Balaghat and Bhandara border;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) to (c) According to the State Govt. three cases of illegal trade in wildlife articles were detected and registered on 26th & 27th December, 1996 in the Katni Sub-division of Jabalpur District. Four leopard skins and two trapping nets were seized from three persons who were arrested and produced in court. Other people involved in these cases are reportedly absconding.

[English]

Prices of Urea

3598. SHRI ISWAR PRASANNA HAZARIKA : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) the prices of bulk urea fixed for different producers in private, public and cooperative sectors under the Retention Price Scheme along with quantity produced thereof by each of them during 1995-96, 1996-97;

(b) the average landed cost of bulk urea imported during the said period; and

(c) whether any incentive for renovation, modernisation and expansion of the units has been provided by the Government with a view to curb the overall subsidy or otherwise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) The Retention Price of urea is fixed unitwise on the basis of normative capacity utilization and a combination of norms and actuals in respect of various cost elements and expenses. A pre-tax return on networth corresponding to a post tax return of 12% is included in the Retention Price. The desired information in respect of unitwise production and Retention Prices of urea during 1995-96 and 1996-97 has been furnished in the statement attached.

(b) The average C & F cost of urea imported during 1995-96 and 1996-97 (provisionally estimated upto February, 1997) was Rs. 7510/- and Rs. 7308/- per MT, respectively.

(c) The following incentives have been provided by the Government for renovation, modernization and expansion of the domestic urea industry:

(i) The domestic urea industry is supported through the Retention Price-cum-Subsidy scheme.

(ii) Liquid petroleum products used as feed-stock and fuel in fertilizer plants are supplied at concessional price.

(iii) Customs duty has been abolished on import of capital goods required for setting up new fertilizer plants and also for renovation/modernisation of the existing plants.

(iv) A scheme has been sanctioned for refund of customs duty paid on capital goods and 3% concession in the interest on term loans in respect of plants commissioned on or after 1/1/1991.

(v) Indigenous suppliers of capital goods to fertilizer projects are eligible for deemed export benefits, provided such supplies are made under the procedure of international competitive biddings.